

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A sealing material, comprising a powdered material into which a rubber base sealing material with a viscosity of 20 to 200Pa·s/100°C is pulverized at a temperature lower than, or equal to, a brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material.

2. (original) The sealing material according to claim 1, wherein the rubber base sealing material comprises butyl rubber.

3. (original) The sealing material according to claim 2, wherein the rubber base sealing material further includes polybutene.

4. (currently amended) The sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the temperature lower than, or equal to, the brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material is lower than the brittle temperature by 10°C or more.

5. (currently amended) The sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein a diameter of a particle of the powdered material is 3μm to 8μm.

6. (currently amended) The sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the rubber base sealing material is pulverized at a temperature lower than, or equal to, the brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material under an atmosphere of liquid nitrogen.

7. (original) A method of applying a sealing material, comprising the steps of:
pulverizing a rubber base sealing material with a viscosity of 20 to 200Pa·s/100°C into a powdered material at a temperature lower than, or equal to, a brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material;
subsequently applying the powdered material to a surface which is intended to be coated with the sealing material.

8. (original) The method of applying a sealing material according to claim 7, wherein the rubber base sealing material comprises butyl rubber.

9. (original) The method of applying a sealing material according to claim 8, wherein the rubber base sealing material further includes polybutene.

10. (currently amended) The method of applying a sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, wherein the temperature lower than, or equal to, the brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material is lower than the brittle temperature by 10°C or more.

11. (currently amended) The method of applying a sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 10~~ claim 7, wherein the diameter of a particle of the powdered material is 3μm to 8μm.

12. (currently amended) The method of applying a sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 11~~ claim 7, wherein the rubber base sealing material is pulverized at a temperature lower than, or equal to, the brittle temperature of the rubber base sealing material under an atmosphere of liquid nitrogen.

13. (currently amended) The method of applying a sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 12~~ claim 7, wherein the surface which is intended to be coated with the sealing material is the inner surface of a pneumatic tire.

14. (currently amended) The method of applying a sealing material according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 13~~ claim 7, wherein the temperature of the surface which is intended to be coated with the sealing material is not lower than 20°C, and not higher than 60°C.